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www.health.ri.gov

Interim Health Advisory to Child Care & Day Care Facilities

Date: August 12, 2009
To: Childcare & Daycare Facilities
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Child care & Daycare Facilities & H1N1 Influenza in RI

Recommendations for Childcare & Daycare Facilities

Child care providers in both community-based centers and home-based child care programs should:

- Create or review their plans for operations in a pandemic. This checklist can help providers to plan. [Child Care and Preschool Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist](#).
- Tell parents of children displaying flu-like symptoms (fever and cough or sore throat) that children should stay home until they are free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine. Children should only leave home to get medical care.
- Monitor students and staff for flu-like symptoms.
- Conduct a 10-minute review with staff and students on respiratory hygiene. Teach (as developmentally appropriate) the following standards of prevention:
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel.
 - Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
 - Stay home if you are sick.

Children or staff with flu-like symptoms should stay home until they are free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

- Instruct children's parents or staff whose ILI symptoms worsen to seek medical care.
- Child care providers should regularly monitor HEALTH's website to obtain guidance about influenza-like illnesses.
- Closure is not advised for a probable or confirmed case of H1N1 influenza unless there is a magnitude of children or staff absenteeism that interferes with the ability to function.
- Child care staff should clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the facility

Resources

- CDC Swine Influenza Site: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/childcare.htm>
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/K12_dismissal.htm
- Rhode Island Department of Health Swine Influenza Site:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/schools.php>
- WHO Swine Influenza Site: <http://www.who.int/en/>